Workplace Fatalities



7/16/98 Fall/Head

A 53-year old worker was standing in the front-end bucket of the tractor removing 20-foot aluminum bulkheads from a potato shed.

Each bulkhead weighed 75 to 85 pounds. The worker had already removed three bulkheads and had them pinned against one side of the bucket with his legs. As he was removing a fourth bulkhead, it slipped, knocking him backwards and out of the bucket. The four bulkheads followed the victim to the ground, and all four of them hit him on the head. The victim was a foreman, and had worked at the same employer for 16 years. Questions to ask?

- Are there work practices that could be chosen that will be a safer alternative?
- In your company is everyone acknowledged as having a say in safety procedures, even if it means speaking against the procedures of a superior?